Data-driven exploration of the variability, controls and future changes of dimethyl sulfide in the global surface ocean

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Abstract

As the largest natural source of sulfur-containing gases into the atmosphere, ocean organism-derived dimethyl sulfide (DMS) has been considered to play a critical role in the Earth's climate system. Yet there are great uncertainties in modeling the spatiotemporal variations of DMS and incomplete knowledge of influencing factors in different oceanic regions. Moreover, little is known about the future change of global DMS, which limits our understanding of the feedback of marine ecosystem to climate change. Here we develop an artificial neural network model and combine data mining approaches to address these issues. Phytoplankton biomass and salinity are currently predominant factors associated with DMS variability in the coastal and Arctic regions, respectively. In the mid- and low-latitude open oceans, nutrients and temperature are also crucial factors in addition to radiation and mixed layer depth, and their relationships with DMS show reversals when passing certain thresholds. Although the global average DMS concentration and emission slightly decline from 2005 to 2100, they may change considerably in specific regions. In contrast to the DMS decreases in the low-latitudes mainly related with phosphate reduction and temperature rise and in the North Atlantic subpolar gyre attributed to salinity decline, warming will cause DMS increase in the Southern Ocean and sea ice loss will dramatically enhance DMS emission in the Arctic. Although the global negative feedback loop between oceanic DMS and climate may not operate, the future spatial redistribution of DMS may lead to the change in cloud cover pattern and significantly affect regional climate.

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19 Key Points:

- Machine learning can well capture the variability of dimethyl sulfide and unravel its
 relationships with environmental factors
- Nutrients and temperature are also crucial factors influencing dimethyl sulfide variations
 in the mid- and low-latitude open oceans
 - The future changes of dimethyl sulfide concentration and emission have large spatial disparities and their global averages slightly decline

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27 Abstract

As the largest natural source of sulfur-containing gases into the atmosphere, ocean organism-28 derived dimethyl sulfide (DMS) has been considered to play a critical role in the Earth's climate 29 system. Yet there are great uncertainties in modeling the spatiotemporal variations of DMS and 30 incomplete knowledge of influencing factors in different oceanic regions. Moreover, little is 31 known about the future change of global DMS, which limits our understanding of the feedback 32 of marine ecosystem to climate change. Here we develop an artificial neural network model and 33 combine data mining approaches to address these issues. Phytoplankton biomass and salinity are 34 currently predominant factors associated with DMS variability in the coastal and Arctic regions, 35 respectively. In the mid- and low-latitude open oceans, nutrients and temperature are also crucial 36 factors in addition to radiation and mixed layer depth, and their relationships with DMS show 37 reversals when passing certain thresholds. Although the global average DMS concentration and 38 emission slightly decline from 2005 to 2100, they may change considerably in specific regions. 39 40 In contrast to the DMS decreases in the low-latitudes mainly related with phosphate reduction and temperature rise and in the North Atlantic subpolar gyre attributed to salinity decline, 41 warming will cause DMS increase in the Southern Ocean and sea ice loss will dramatically 42 enhance DMS emission in the Arctic. Although the global negative feedback loop between 43 oceanic DMS and climate may not operate, the future spatial redistribution of DMS may lead to 44 45 the change in cloud cover pattern and significantly affect regional climate.

46 Plain Language Summary

47 Dimethyl sulfide (DMS) mainly from marine biota is a key precursor of sulfate aerosols

48 generating cooling effect on Earth's climate, but the response of DMS to global warming is

49 highly uncertain with limited numbers of studies showing discrepant results. Based on decades-

- ⁵⁰ long sea surface DMS observations, we established a machine learning model to systematically
- 51 explore the variabilities of DMS and their relationships with different environmental variables
- 52 across global ocean. Then the future changes of DMS are projected and the dominant positive or 53 negative factors are identified. The DMS concentration and emission present overall slight
- decreases in the 21st century, and their changes and causes have huge spatial disparities. The
- negative feedback of DMS to climate warming may not exist on a global scale but the spatial
- 56 pattern shift may have a significant impact on regional climate. This work provides new insights
- 57 into DMS biogeochemistry from a different perspective compared to conventional models, which
- helps to promote our understanding of the role of DMS in changing climate.

59 **1 Introduction**

Dimethyl sulfide (DMS) mostly produced by ocean biota accounts for more than half of 60 natural sulfur emissions and contributes substantially to sulfur dioxide in the troposphere 61 (Andreae, 1990; Sheng et al., 2015) which can be oxidized to sulfuric acid and form sulfate 62 aerosols (Barnes et al., 2006; Hoffmann et al., 2016). Sulfate aerosols play an important role in 63 mitigation of global warming by both scattering solar radiation and altering cloud condensation 64 nuclei (CCN) and albedo (Masson-Delmotte et al., 2021). Recent studies have proven that CCN 65 66 over remote oceans and polar regions are primarily composed of non-sea-salt sulfate (nss-SO4²⁻) (Park et al., 2021; Quinn et al., 2017). Given 70% coverage of the Earth's surface by the ocean 67 and weak influence of anthropogenic SO₂ over open oceans, marine biogenic DMS can be the 68 most important source of nss-SO4²⁻ and regulates regional and global climate (McCoy et al., 69 2015). Accordingly, DMS has been suggested to be the key substance in the postulated negative 70

71 feedback of marine phytoplankton to climate warming (the "CLAW" hypothesis) (Charlson et

⁷² al., 1987). However, there are still many knowledge gaps in testing the "CLAW" hypothesis

73 (Quinn and Bates, 2011), and how oceanic DMS will respond to global warming is one of the

74 most crucial puzzles. Therefore, accurate simulation of spatiotemporal variations of DMS in 75 global oceans is required for understanding current atmospheric chemistry and climate system,

and the prediction and attribution of DMS future trends are of great help for reducing the

⁷⁷ uncertainty of our knowledge about climate change.

78 Many researches have attempted to explore the oceanic DMS dynamics but found that 79 DMS production and consumption mechanisms are more complex than expected. The major precursor of DMS, dimethylsulfoniopropionate (DMSP), is synthesized mainly by phytoplankton 80 in the photic zone and plays a variety of physiological functions in algal cells (McParland and 81 Levine, 2018; Stefels, 2000; Sunda et al., 2002). The DMSP yield differs dramatically among 82 algal species with the high-yielding Haptophytes and Dinoflagellates relative to Cyanobacteria 83 and diatoms (Keller et al., 1989; Stefels et al., 2007), and DMS can be produced through DMSP 84 intracellular and extracellular cleavage by both algae and bacteria (Alcolombri et al., 2015; 85 Zhang et al., 2019). Therefore, the oceanic DMS produced via multiple pathways can be affected 86 by many biotic and abiotic factors, including temperature, salinity, solar radiation, mixed layer 87 depth (MLD), nutrients, oxygen, acidity, etc. (Omori et al., 2015; Simó and Pedrós-Alió, 1999; 88 89 Six et al., 2013; Stefels, 2000; Stefels et al., 2007; Vallina and Simó, 2007; Zindler et al., 2014). In addition, seawater DMS has multiple removal pathways (bacterial consumption, 90 photodegradation, sea-to-air ventilation, etc.), further complicating the DMS cycling (Stefels et 91 al., 2007). Tesdal et al. (2016) have evaluated diverse approaches for estimating the DMS 92 variability in global ocean surface, and found great difference among the results regardless of 93 94 data-based climatologies, empirical models or process-embedded prognostic models. In addition to the large uncertainty in mapping DMS distribution, the understanding of its controlling factors 95 96 and future changes in different regions is more challenging, as a result of potential inconformity on different spatial and temporal scales. For example, the dominant controlling factor of DMS 97 variation on a global scale may be less important in a specific region. Besides, the key factor 98 driving the seasonal cycle of DMS, such as solar radiation dose (SRD), may not induce the long-99 term change of DMS (Vallina et al., 2007b). By contrast, the minor factors for DMS seasonal 100 variation may be essential to the DMS change under global warming. 101

In recent years, the application of data-driven approaches like machine learning to Earth 102 system science has drawn more and more attention. Compared with conventional approaches and 103 process models, machine learning explores larger function space and captures more hidden 104 information from large amounts of datasets, hence it often provides a better simulation and 105 prediction performance (Bergen et al., 2019; Reichstein et al., 2019; Zheng et al., 2020). A recent 106 study has demonstrated that artificial neural network (ANN) can capture more (~66%) of the raw 107 data variance than multilinear regression (~39%) in producing the global climatology of DMS 108 with monthly temporal resolution (Wang et al., 2020). However, this work is lack of the in-depth 109 exploration of relationships between DMS and environmental variables in different regions. The 110 construction of ANN and other machine learning models do not depend on the understanding of 111 explicit mechanisms. Due to the "black-box" nature of these models, the complex relationships 112 between target and predictors are stored in nonobvious form and not directly available (Murdoch 113 et al., 2019). Therefore, machine learning models are generally less robust in physical 114 interpretability than theory-driven models (Hou et al., 2022; Molnar, 2020). However, by 115 integrating with appropriate data mining approaches, machine learning models can also be 116

interpretable to some extent and the output-input relationships may be extracted indirectly(Murdoch et al., 2019).

Here we established a DMS-simulation model based on Global Surface Seawater DMS 119 (GSSD) database (Kettle et al., 1999), datasets of multiple oceanic variables, and ANN approach. 120 Then we simulated the variation of DMS across global oceans and explored the relationships 121 between DMS and environmental variables in 9 separated oceanic regions through global 122 sensitivity analysis and partial dependence plot. Taking the sixth Coupled Models 123 Intercomparison Project (CMIP6) ensemble as the ANN model inputs, the trends of oceanic 124 DMS concentrations and emissions from present to 2100 were projected and the leading 125 influence factors were identified in combination with a series of sensitivity experiments. 126

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128 **2 Materials and Methods**

129 2.1 ANN Training and Validation

The ANN model incorporated 9 variables as input features, including chlorophyll a (Chl 130 a), sea surface temperature (SST), MLD, nitrate, phosphate, silicate, dissolved oxygen (DO), 131 downward short-wave radiation (DSWF) and sea surface salinity (SSS). The data sources and 132 relevant information of 9 input variables and DMS are listed in Table 1. The GSSD database 133 contains totally 87,801 DMS measurements obtained from 266 cruises and fixed-site observation 134 campaigns during 11 March 1972 to 27 August 2017 (last access: 1 April 2020). The data match-135 up, filtration and binning were carefully performed as described in Text S1. After these data 136 preprocessing approaches, a total of 34,118 samples were obtained for the ANN model 137 construction and their spatial distribution is shown in Figure 1a, which covers all major regions 138 of global ocean. 139

140 As for the ANN training, the target variable is log_{10} (DMS), and the input variables include log10(Chl a), SST, log10(MLD), log10(nitrate), log10(phosphate), log10(silicate), DO, 141 DSWF, and SSS. All variables were standardized before training. We randomly selected 5% of 142 binned samples (n = 1706) to be entirely excluded from training, as a subset for global validation 143 and overfitting test. Then, the remaining samples (n = 32,412) were randomly split into three 144 parts, that is, 70% for training, 15% for validation, and 15% for testing. Our feed-forward back-145 propagation (BP) neural network contains one hidden layer with 20 nodes, and the training 146 147 algorithm is the Levenberg-Marquardt algorithm. Mean squared error (MSE) is chosen as the indicator for performance evaluation during training, and the upper limit of the number of 148 iterations in each training session is 1000. The training processes were carried out with Neural 149 Network Toolbox on Matlab R2014b, and the URL link to the training code and obtained ANN 150 model is given in Open Research. We have trained the ANN for 100 times to improve the 151 network generalization and performance (Sigmund et al., 2020) and each training session started 152 independently with a new division of those 32,411 samples. The average output of 100 trained 153 ANNs showed a much higher consistency with target than individual ANN. But as the number of 154 training sessions (N_{training}) increases, the simulation performance tends to be stable when N_{training} 155 is larger than 100. Therefore, we used the average output of 100 ANNs as our final model output. 156

157 We divided the global ocean into 9 regions based on Longhurst's biomes (Longhurst,

158 1998). There are 6 biomes in Longhurst's definition, including Coastal, Polar_N, Polar_S,

159 Westerlies_N, Westerlies_S, and Trades (the .shp file of Longhurst's biomes and provinces was

160 downloaded from <u>https://www.marineregions.org/downloads.php#longhurst</u>). We further divided

161 Westerlies_N into Westerlies_N_Pacific and Westerlies_N_Atlantic, and divided Trades into

162 Trades_Pacific, Trades_Indian, and Trades_Atlantic as shown in Figure 1b. In order to evaluate 163 whether there is a spatial preference of DMS simulation, the comparisons of simulated and

164 observed DMS concentrations in each region were conducted.

- 165 There may be intrinsic connections between the excluded subset and trained dataset,
- because the data from the same cruise or fixed-site campaign have significant continuity. To
- 167 further evaluate the reliability of ANN model, we compared the simulated DMS concentrations

168 with the observational data not archived in GSSD database, which are obtained from 35 cruises

in Northeast Pacific, West Pacific and North Atlantic (number of data = 6,478). These data

include: (1) off-line sampling and measurement data of 31 cruises of *Line P Program* in

- 171 Northeast Pacific (9 February 2007 26 August 2017, number of data = 177,
- 172 <u>https://www.waterproperties.ca/linep/index.php</u>), (2) underway measurements during *SONNE*
- 173 cruise 202/2 (TRANSBROM) in West Pacific (Zindler et al., 2013) (9 23 October 2009, number
- of data = 115, <u>https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.805613</u>), (3) underway measurements during
- 175 3 cruises of the North Atlantic Aerosols and Marine Ecosystems Study (NAAMES) (Behrenfeld et
- 176 al., 2019; Bell et al., 2021) (11 30 November 2015, 14 May 4 June 2016, 6 24 September
- 177 2017, number of data = 6,186, <u>https://seabass.gsfc.nasa.gov/naames</u>).



- 179 **Figure 1.** (a) The distribution of 34,118 DMS observational data (after matchup, filtration, and
- binning) used for constructing the ANN model. The grid size is $1^{\circ} \times 1^{\circ}$. (b) Nine oceanic regions
- 181 separated on the basis of Longhurst's biomes.

182 **Table 1.**

183 The Data Sources and Related Information of Variables Used for Developing the ANN Model,

 Dins Simulation, and I has Calculation								
Variable	Data source	URL	Temporal resolution	Temporal coverage	Spatial grid			
DMS	GSSD database	https://saga.pmel.n oaa.gov/dms/	-	Mar. 1972 – Aug. 2017	-			
Chl a	GSSD database	https://saga.pmel.n oaa.gov/dms/	-	Oct. 1980 – Aug. 2017	-			

184 DMS Simulation, and Flux Calculation

	SeaWiFS Aqua- MODIS	https://oceandata.sc i.gsfc.nasa.gov/	Daily, 8- day, monthly	Sep. 1997 - Dec. 2011 Jul. 2002 - present	0.083°×0.083°						
SST	NOAA OI SST V2	https://psl.noaa.gov /data/gridded/data. noaa.oisst.v2.highr es.html	Daily	Sep. 1981 - present	0.25°×0.25°						
MLD DSWF SSS	NASA ECCO V4r4	https://data.nas.nas a.gov/ecco/data.ph p?dir=/eccodata/llc _90/ECCOv4/Rele ase4	Daily	Jan. 1992 - Dec. 2017	LLC90						
						Nitrate Phosphate Silicate DO	WOA18	https://www.nodc.n oaa.gov/OC5/woa1 8/woa18data.html	Monthly climatology	-	1°×1°
						WS	NASA ECCO V4r4	https://data.nas.nas a.gov/ecco/data.ph p?dir=/eccodata/llc _90/ECCOv4/Rele ase4	Daily	Jan. 1992 - Dec. 2017	LLC90
SI	NOAA OI SST V2	https://psl.noaa.gov /data/gridded/data. noaa.oisst.v2.highr es.html	Daily	Sep. 1981 - present	0.25°×0.25°						

Note. The LLC90 (Lat-Lon-Cap 90) grid is a native grid used for ECCO data, which has 5 faces
 containing 13 regional tiles covering the global ocean. The spatial resolution of oceanic grids

187 varies from 22 km to 110 km (Forget et al., 2015).

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2.2 Simulating Spatiotemporal Patterns of Sea Surface DMS

First, we constructed the daily gridded dataset of input variables with a spatial resolution 190 of $1^{\circ} \times 1^{\circ}$ during 2005 to 2014 using the data sources listed in Table 1 (except in-situ Chl *a* data). 191 For those datasets with a higher resolution than $1^{\circ} \times 1^{\circ}$, values in each $1^{\circ} \times 1^{\circ}$ grid were averaged. 192 As for satellite Chl a data, the priority level was the same as mentioned in Text S1, and SeaWiFS 193 and Aqua-MODIS datasets were combined. As for nutrients and DO, only monthly climatology 194 was provided in WOA18 and the same value was used for all the days of each month. Hence, 195 these variables lack information on inter-annual and day-to-day variations, but the spatial and 196 monthly variations are well captured. After obtaining the input dataset, the spatiotemporal 197 distribution of sea surface DMS concentrations was simulated using the ANN model. Then the 198 sea-to-air fluxes of DMS were calculated as the products of DMS concentrations and total 199 transfer velocities (Kt). In brief, we adopted the bubble scheme (Woolf, 1997) to calculate the 200 water-side transfer velocity (k_w) , and the parameterization schemes proposed by Johnson (2010) 201

to calculate the air-side transfer velocity (k_a) and Henry's law constant (H). The inhibitory effect
 of sea-ice cover on gas transfer was considered. More detailed information is described in Text
 S2. The implementation of above approaches to calculate DMS fluxes follows Galí et al. (2019).

205 2.3 Global Sensitivity Analysis and Partial Dependence Plot

ANN is conventionally seen as a "black box" that there is no clear functional relationship 206 between the output and input variables. In order to demystify this "black box", we used global 207 sensitivity analysis (GSA) and partial dependence plot (PDP) to reveal the dominant variables 208 associated with DMS spatiotemporal varaibility and how DMS changes with the change of each 209 variable in different oceanic regions. When exploring the relative importance of one variable, 210 GSA considers the full-space variabilities of all variables simultaneously, rather than hold other 211 variables at certain values for local sensitivity analysis (LSA) which only captures a small 212 portion of the input variability (Wagener and Pianosi, 2019). Therefore, GSA can provide more 213 rigorous results than LSA. Here we applied a variance-based GSA by calculating first-order 214 215 Sobol' indices using quasi-Monte Carlo approach (Sobol', 2001; Sobol' and Myshetskaya, 2008). The indices in each oceanic region were calculated independently based on the same unified 216 ANN model. This method has been widely used to explore which input mostly influence the 217 model predictions in the field of environmental sciences (Girard et al., 2016; Sigmund et al., 218 2020; Wagener and Pianosi, 2019). As for PDP, it graphically illustrates the marginal effect of an 219 input variable on the model output, which can be interpreted as the response of output to the 220 change of this input (Haaf et al., 2021; Molnar, 2020; Qin et al., 2022). PDP looks at the input 221 variable of interest across a specified range. At each value of this variable, the output values for 222 all input samples are simulated and then averaged. The detailed calculation processes are 223 provided in Text S3. 224

225 2.4 DMS Projection Based on CMIP6 Ensemble

The future (2015–2100) changes of sea surface DMS concentrations and sea-to-air fluxes 226 are projected by applying our ANN model and the ensemble of 11 earth system models in 227 CMIP6 including ACCESS-ESM1-5, BCC-CSM2-MR, CanESM5, CESM2-WACCM, GFDL-228 ESM4, INM-CM5-0, IPSL-CM6A-LR, MIROC6, MPI-ESM1-2-HR, MRI-ESM2-0 and 229 230 NorESM2-MM. The projection was subjected into two Shared Socioeconomic Pathway scenarios SSP2-4.5 and SSP5-8.5 (with radiative forcing approaching 4.5 and 8.5 W m⁻² in 2100, 231 respectively). The sea surface DMS concentrations and fluxes during 2005-2014 are also 232 simulated using the Historical scenario outputs of same CMIP6 models. All model datasets were 233 downloaded from https://esgf-node.llnl.gov/search/cmip6/ (last access: 23 November 2020). The 234 data availability of involved variables for each model is listed in Table S2 and the model 235 selection for Chl a and three nutrients are discussed in Text S4. Thresholds were set for some 236 variables as shown in Table S3, while values outside the range were excluded. Then the data of 237 all selected models for each variable were averaged and used as the model inputs to simulate 238 DMS concentrations. Same treatments were applied for near-surface wind speed and sea-ice 239 cover engaged in flux calculation. As for those variables need to be log transformed, the 240 transformation was conducted before the averaging. The time resolution of all datasets was one 241 month, and the spatial grids were unified to $1^{\circ} \times 1^{\circ}$. 242

243 2.5 Sensitivity Experiments

In order to infer the dominant factors accounting for the projected future change of DMS 244 under global warming, the following sensitivity experiments were designed to isolate the effect 245 of each variable. First, the abovementioned DMS projection with all input variables changing 246 with time was set as the Reference Experiment. Then, we set an experiment for each variable 247 248 (Variable Experiment) to exam DMS sensitivity to the variable's long-term change. Taking SST Experiment as an example, the SST input was fixed to the values in 2014, while all other input 249 variables still change year by year. If the simulated DMS change (between 2091–2100 and 250 2005–2014) of SST Experiment was lower (higher) than that of Reference Experiment, it would 251 suggest that the change of SST made a positive (negative) effect on DMS during the simulation 252 period. The difference of DMS changes between Reference Experiment and each Variable 253 Experiment represented the effect intensity of each variable which was used to identify dominant 254 negative and positive factors. 255

256 **3 Results and Discussion**

257 3.1 Simulation of Ocean Surface DMS by Machine Learning

As shown in Figure 2a, the newly-developed ANN model captures a substantial part of 258 data variance globally (log₁₀ space $R^2 = 0.624$ and RMSE = 0.267). The simulation performance 259 for 5% of dataset not used in training ($R^2 = 0.604$ and RMSE = 0.274) is close to that for trained 260 dataset, suggesting no obvious overfitting. The ANN model exhibits much better performance 261 compared to previous empirical and process-based models ($R^2 = 0.01 - 0.14$) (Tesdal et al., 2016) 262 as well as a recent algorithm based on satellite data ($R^2 = 0.50$) (Galí et al., 2018). In addition, it 263 also shows good capability of simulation in each of 9 separated oceanic regions without 264 significant spatial preference (Figure 2c, $R^2 = 0.376 \sim 0.694$, RMSE = 0.152 ~ 0.304). 265



Figure 2. Comparisons between ANN-simulated and observed DMS conentrations in GSSD database. (a) Scatter density for all simulated versus observed DMS concentration data used in ANN training. (b) Comparison between the simulation results and the 5% of GSSD observational data not used for training. (c) Scatter density for simulated versus observed DMS concentration data in each of 9 regionss. The number of data (n), the log₁₀ space R² and root mean squared error (RMSE) are also displayed.

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The comparisons between observed DMS concentrations not archived in GSSD dataset 274 and ANN simulation results in corresponding 1°×1° grids and dates of samples are shown in 275 Figure 3. As for the *Line P Program*, it should be noted that there are 7 cruises included in 276 GSSD database, but those data were obtained by underway measurements, different from the off-277 line data used here. Hence, these cruises were retained and marked in Figure 3a but eliminated in 278 subsequent statistical analysis (Figure 3c-3d). It can be seen that the simulation well captures the 279 seasonal variation, which is generally August > June > February. In addition, the simulation can 280 also partially reproduce the changes between different stations, though the performance is not as 281 good as the overall comparison between different cruises. As for underway measurements in 282 West Pacific and North Atlantic, the data were binned by day and 1°×1° grid and then compared 283 with simulated DMS concentrations (Figure 3c). Most of the simulated values are within the 284 range of 1/3 to 3 times of observations. If all above data are binned by each cruise, the 285 simulations will demonstrate higher consistency with observations as shown in Figure 3c (log₁₀ 286 space $R^2 = 0.784$, RMSE = 0.227). Therefore, the ANN model has high fidelity in simulating the 287 concentrations of sea surface DMS. 288





same as panel b but for averaged data of each cruise. The yellow lines and shaded bands are

linear fittings and corresponding 95% confidence intervals for \log_{10} space data. The R² and RMSE displayed in figure also corresponds to \log_{10} space data.

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By applying the ANN model, we obtained a gridded dataset $(1^{\circ}\times 1^{\circ})$ of daily DMS 299 concentrations in surface ocean and sea-to-air fluxes spanning from 2005 to 2014 (referred to as 300 Z22 dataset). The simulation of atmospheric DMS chemistry by chemical transport models may 301 be effectively improved by taking this dataset as marine DMS emission inventory, due to its 302 higher time resolution than previously used monthly climatology (Hodshire et al., 2019; Novak 303 et al., 2021; Woodhouse et al., 2013). Our estimate of globally area-weighted annual mean 304 concentration of sea surface DMS is 1.86 nM, which is significantly lower than those derived 305 from the SRD-based parameterization (2.71 nM, Vallina and Simó, 2007) and the interpolation-306 based climatologies (2.43 nM and 2.26 nM from the second version L11 and the third version 307 H22 climatologies, respectively) (Hulswar et al., 2022; Lana et al., 2011), but slightly higher 308 309 than those estimated by the satellite-based algorithm (1.63 nM, referred to as G18) (Galí et al., 2018) and another ANN model (1.74 nM, referred to as W20) (Wang et al., 2020). High DMS 310 concentrations (> 2.5 nM) occur in the North Pacific and subarctic Atlantic during June-August 311 and at the 40° S of Southern Ocean and near Antarctic continent during December-February 312 (Figure 4a). DMS is also abundant in the eastern Pacific and Benguela upwelling zones, where 313 nutrient-rich deep waters support high primary production. These overall seasonal and 314 geographical distributions generally accord with the previous estimates of global DMS fields, as 315 well as the observed DMS maximum in summer in subtropical to polar open oceans associated 316 317 with the strongest radiation and water stratification (Simó and Pedrós-Alió, 1999; Vallina and Simó, 2007). Nonetheless, in specific regions our simulation (DMSz22) may show considerable 318 differences with other DMS estimates (Figure S4-S5). Compared with DMSL11, DMSZ22 is 319 significantly lower at high latitudes in summer and in South Indian Ocean and Southwest Pacific 320 Ocean during December to February (Figure S4a). As an update of L11, DMS_{H22} shows much 321 less divergence with DMS_{Z22} in northern high latitudes, South Indian Ocean and Southwest 322 Pacific Ocean, but its summertime concentrations around the Antarctic are much higher than 323 DMS₂₂₂ (Figure S4b). DMS_{G18} generally shows milder spatial variation in open oceans and 324 lower values (especially in North Pacific and coastal Antarctic during summer) than DMSZ22 325 (Figure S4c). DMSw20 exhibits the highest consistency with DMSz22 in spatiotemporal 326 distribution patterns among the four previous estimates. But there is a significant difference that 327 DMS_{Z22} is generally higher in the region of $\sim 40^{\circ}$ S and $0-120^{\circ}$ W, and forms a complete annular 328 high-DMS area at 40° S in austral summer (Figure S4d and Figure 4a). 329

The spatial and seasonal patterns of DMS flux follow its concentration variability with the exception of polar regions where sea-ice cover may prevent the gas transfer to the atmosphere (Figure S7). We obtain highly consistent distributions (Fig. 4b and Figure S6-S7) and values (global mean DMS concentration of 1.88 nM and emission of 19.2 Tg S yr⁻¹) when substituting model inputs by Historical-scenario datasets of CMIP6, suggesting that CMIP6 datasets could be used to project the long-term DMS trend through the ANN model.



Figure 4. Seasonal distribution of simulated DMS concentrations in the global ocean surface during 2005–2014. (a) Simulated seasonal climatology of global sea surface DMS concentrations during 2005 to 2014 on the basis of the same input datasets as training. (b) The latitudinal distributions of simulated DMS concentration, transfer velocity, and sea-to-air flux in different seasons during 2005 to 2014. The solid and dashed lines correspond to the simulations on the basis of the same input datasets as training and CMIP6 datasets, respectively.

345 3.2 Relationships between DMS and Environmental Factors

By applying GSA and PDP (see Methods and Text S3), we were able to identify the main 346 environmental factors related with the DMS variability and illustrate the relationship between 347 DMS concentration and each factor in different oceanic regions. For coastal region, the most 348 important factor is Chl a (Figure 5), which shows a monotonically positive relationship with 349 DMS (Figure 6), mainly attributed to stronger biogenic sulfur producing with higher 350 phytoplankton biomass. In the Arctic region (Polar N), the top two controlling factors are SSS 351 and Chl a (Figure 5), and they both exhibit positive relationships with DMS (Figure 6). In this 352 region, high SSS is generally accompanied with the inflow of more saline, warmer and nutrient-353 rich Atlantic water mass (the so-called "Atlantification") (Figure S8), where high abundances of 354 Phaeocystis pouchetii were generally found (Schoemann et al., 2005; Vogt et al., 2012). In 355 addition, both seasonal and decadal observations showed that enhanced Atlantification led to an 356 increase in the summertime proportion of *Phaeocystis pouchetii* and decrease of diatoms (Nöthig 357 et al., 2015; Orkney et al., 2020; Reigstad et al., 2002). Phaeocystis is likely one of major 358 contributors to dimethylated sulfur compounds at high latitudes (Galí et al., 2021). Therefore, the 359 close link between major DMSP-producing phytoplankton and saline Atlantic waters may partly 360 explain why the SSS is a key influencing factor of the spatiotemporal variations of DMS in the 361 Arctic region. It should be noted that salinity change and water stratification caused by sea-ice 362 melt may also affect phytoplankton biomass and community structure (Ardyna and Arrigo, 2020; 363 Galí et al., 2021), but the specific influence of sea-ice melt on DMS remains to be studied. Our 364 results show that the coastal and Arctic regions belong to *bloom-forced regime* for DMS cycling, 365 which is consistent with previous statements (Toole and Siegel, 2004). The importance of Chl a 366 to DMS in the Arctic can also explain why good correlation between DMS and net primary 367

368 productivity occurred therein, which is a prerequisite for using ice-core MSA concentrations to

reconstruct multi-century change of subarctic oceanic productivity (Osman et al., 2019).

370 Nonetheless, Chl *a* is not a dominant factor in mid-latitude and tropical open oceans

371 (Longhurst's Westerlies and Trades biomes (Longhurst, 1998)), agreeing with the mismatch

between annual cycles of DMS and Chl a, i.e. "DMS summer paradox" (Galí and Simó, 2015; Simó and Padráz Aliá, 1000) subich as means data the streng formed maximum lastered DSW/F

Simó and Pedrós-Alió, 1999), which corresponds to the *stress-forced regime*. Instead, DSWF
 and MLD generally rank among the top three key factors, and DMS increases with the increase

of DSWF and the decrease of MLD when MLD < 140 m (Figure 5-6), consistent with the

significant role of SRD in controlling the DMS variation in upper mixed layer (Vallina and

377 Simó, 2007; Vallina et al., 2007a). The consistency between former knowledge and our results of

- 378 DMS controls can well prove that the combination of machine learning, GSA, and PDP
- approaches is a viable way to explore the complex relationships between DMS and various

380 environmental factors.

Macronutrients are also important factors in mid-latitude and tropical oceans, such as 381 nitrate in Westerlies N Pacific and Westerlies S; and phosphate in Westerlies N Atlantic, 382 Westerlies S, Trades Pacific, and Trades Atlantic (Figure 5). Nutrients demonstrate negative 383 and positive effects on DMS at their low and high concentrations respectively (Figure 6), with 384 the turning points of 0.030–0.122 μ mol kg⁻¹ nitrate and 0.025–0.032 μ mol kg⁻¹ phosphate in three Trades regions and 0.62–14.2 μ mol kg⁻¹ nitrate and 0.021–0.11 μ mol kg⁻¹ phosphate in 385 386 Westerlies. High nutrients normally supply flourishing phytoplankton biomass leading to a high 387 production of biogenic sulfur. However, in extremely nutrient-depleted regime, the biosynthesis 388 of DMSP and its cleavage into DMS and acrylate may also be enhanced, which act as a 389 390 substitute of nitrogen-containing osmolytes like glycine betaine (Stefels, 2000), dissipate the excess reduced sulfur and carbon under unbalanced growth (Stefels, 2000; Stefels et al., 2007), 391 or establish an anti-oxidation system to eliminate reactive oxygen species (ROS) (Sunda et al., 392 2002; Sunda et al., 2007). Moreover, nitrate may also enhance the DMS removal by photolysis 393 (Bouillon and Miller, 2005; Toole et al., 2004), although it usually plays a secondary role 394 compared to chromophoric dissolved organic matter (CDOM) (Galí et al., 2016). This 395 mechanism may be particularly important in the Westerlies S where nitrate concentrations are 396 397 high and show mainly a negative relationship with DMS (Figure 6). As diatoms are generally low-DMSP producers (Keller et al., 1989), the importance of silicate to DMS is only found in 398 Weterlies S where the dominant phytoplankton group varies clearly between diatoms and other 399 species around the year (Alvain et al., 2008). In this region, silicate ranks the second important 400 factor and shows an inverse relationship with DMS when its concentration is within the range of 401 402 $0.16-22.7 \ \mu mol \ kg^{-1}$.

403 Sea surface temperature is the most important factor in southern polar region (Polar S) (Figure 5), and a sharp increasing trend of DMS is found with the decreasing SST from 4.7 °C 404 (Figure 6). The Southern Ocean is the largest high-nutrient low-chlorophyll (HNLC) region with 405 the primary productivity limited by iron. In the Antarctic shelf, iron is much more abundant 406 supporting higher seasonal productivity compared to off-shelf area (Charette et al., 2013; 407 Tagliabue et al., 2012), although the SST of shelf is generally lower (Figure S9). In addition, 408 Phaeocystis antarctica are dominant DMSP producers in Polar S (DiTullio et al., 2000; Wang et 409 al., 2015; Wang et al., 2018), which well adapt to low temperature (Schoemann et al., 2005) and 410 often bloom with sea ice melt in the Antarctic shelf and the Ross Sea (DiTullio et al., 2000), 411 412 where our simulated DMS concentrations are also relatively high (Figure S9). Additionally,

culture experiments have corroborated that low temperature can stimulate the DMSP production 413 by Phaeocystis antarctica and subsequent DMS release (Baumann et al., 1994; Wittek et al., 414 2020) since DMSP may act as cryoprotectant (Stefels, 2000; Stefels et al., 2007). Therefore, the 415 spatial overlap of high biomass of DMSP producer with low SST and the cryoprotective effect of 416 DMSP at cold temperature may both contribute to the negative relationship between DMS and 417 418 SST in the Polar S. In Trades biomes, SST is also an important factor showing negative relationship with DMS, but the physiological mechanism may be different from that in Polar S. 419 Together with Westerlies biomes and Polar N, it seems that there is an optimum SST between 420 10-20 °C at which the relationship between DMS and SST shifts from positive to negative 421 422 (Figure 6). Similar relationships have been reported between surface Chl a concentrations and SST with the turning point at around 14 °C (7.18–21.06 °C), attributed to the combination of a 423 positive effect of warming on phytoplankton growth rate and its negative effect on nutrients 424 supply to more stratified upper layer (Feng et al., 2021). Although Chl a concentration has little 425 contribution to DMS seasonal dynamics in tropical and temperate open oceans, the long-term 426 DMS evolution driven by the change of phytoplankton biomass and community composition 427 caused by the combined effects of SST and nutrients is possible. 428

It is noteworthy that only the first-order Sobol' indices are calculated here, which means 429 our GSA only reveals the "main effect" of individual variable. Further studies, like the derivation 430 of second- or third-order Sobol' indices, need to be conducted in the future to better dissect the 431 controlling factors, their synergistic effects, and underlying biogeochemical processes. 432 Moreover, the PDP is a global method (Molnar, 2020), which presents the average marginal 433 effect of a certain factor on DMS concentration across all seasons and the entire space. Hence, 434 the PDP-revealed relationship between DMS and this factor cannot be interpreted as a universal 435 law that holds in every place or every season. 436



Figure 5. The first-order Sobol' indices of input variables for different oceanic regions. A larger
 value indicates relatively higher importance of this variable. The error bars represent the standard
 deviations of 20 times calculation.



444 Figure 6. Partial dependence plots for each variable in different regions.

445

446 3.3 DMS Change under Global Warming and Influencing Factors

The future changes of sea surface DMS (2015-2100) under SSP2-4.5 and SSP5-8.5 447 448 scenarios were simulated by the ANN model using CMIP6 ensemble and their dominant influencing factors were untangled. The global mean concentrations of oceanic DMS decline to 449 1.78 and 1.75 nM in 2091-2100 (decrease by 5.1% and 7.0% compared to 1.88 nM during 2005-450 2014) under SSP2-4.5 and SSP5-8.5, respectively. The spatial pattern of the DMS change 451 matches well between these two scenarios, while the degree of change under SSP5-8.5 is 452 relatively more significant (Figure 7a and Figure S10a). Above half (63.0-64.2%) of global 453 oceans exhibit a decreasing trend (P < 0.05 for linear regression), especially in the vast tropical 454

and subtropical Pacific oceans and the subpolar gyre of North Atlantic. The increasing trend will
take place mainly in the Southern Ocean, Antarctic shelves, North Pacific, the subtropical gyre
of North Atlantic and part of the Arctic and Indian Oceans, which totally occupy 24.6–27.0% of
global oceanic area.

The decreasing trend of DMS concentration in tropical and subtropical Pacific oceans is 459 predominantly related with the phosphate reduction and SST increase (Figure 8-9 and Figure 460 S13-S15). The phosphate concentration and SST in this region are mostly above the turning 461 points revealed by PDPs and demonstrate positive and negative relationships with DMS 462 respectively, hence their future changes will both result in the decline of DMS (Figure 9a). 463 Additionally, the overall phytoplankton biomass may decline in the warmer and nutrient-464 deficient ocean evidenced by both long-term observations (Boyce et al., 2010) and numerical 465 modeling (Kwiatkowski et al., 2019), whereas picophytoplankton (cyanobacteria 466 Prochlorococcus and Synechococcus and picoeukaryotes) are suggested to be promoted 467 (Flombaum et al., 2013; Flombaum et al., 2020). Therefore, picophytoplankton may outcompete 468 high-DMSP producers (such as Haptophyceae and Dinophyceae) in the mid- or low-latitudes, 469 and such community shifts are likely to be one mechanism for DMS decrease. In addition to 470 Pacific, the negative effects of these two factors on DMS in low- to mid-latitude Atlantic and 471 Indian Oceans are also universal and significant (Figure 9c and Figure S14-S15). In contrast, the 472 phosphate reduction and SST rise in the Arctic Ocean may lead to DMS increase because their 473 values are below the turning points (Figure 9a). But in high-latitude Southern Ocean near the 474 475 Antarctic (> 55° S, Polar S), the increasing SST will make a negative effect probably due to the cryoprotective function of DMSP and its high production in extremely cold waters as shown in 476 PDP (Figure 6). Therefore, the same future trend of a specific factor may cause totally different 477 effects on DMS changes in different regions, which is highly dependent on the background 478 conditions. In Polar S, the positive effect of silicate reduction will surpass the abovementioned 479 480 negative effect of SST and lead to a net DMS increase, which may be attributed to the species succession from diatom to high-DMSP producers such as Phaeocystis antarctica (Cameron-481 Smith et al., 2011; Wang et al., 2018) (Figure 8-9 and Figure S13-S15). 482

The poleward shifts of oceanic physical and ecological zones generally occur under 483 global warming (Barton et al., 2016; Yang et al., 2020). Similarly, the high-DMS regions in the 484 485 North Pacific and Southern Ocean (Westerlies S) also move to higher latitudes (e.g. the DMS concentration in the Southern Ocean peaks at 43°-44° S during 2091-2100 under SSP5-8.5 486 compared with 40°-41° S during 2005-2014, Figure 7a) mainly explained by the SST rise and 487 increased stratification (Figure 9). This is particularly important owing to the critical role of 488 marine biogenic sulfate in cloud formation over the lower Southern Ocean latitudes (35°-45° S) 489 (McCoy et al., 2015), and change of cloud cover pattern may influence the regional atmospheric 490 circulation and albedo. A recent study based on global observations from 1970 to 2018 showed 491 that the summertime mixed layer was deepening concurrently with the increase of upper ocean 492 stratification in response to global warming (Sallee et al., 2021). However, current CMIP6 493 models do not capture these trends, which may result in considerable uncertainties for our 494 projection and calls for the model improvement regarding this issue in next CMIP generation. 495

Given the positive relationship between DMS and SSS (Figure 6), the dramatic decrease
of SSS in the North Atlantic subpolar gyre (Figure 8 and Figure S13) associated with the
strengthening of global water cycle (Durack et al., 2012), the freshwater influx from the Arctic

Ocean and the Greenland (Huang et al., 2014), and the weakening of Atlantic meridional 499 overturning circulation (AMOC) (Zhu and Liu, 2020) is found to be the dominant factor 500 accounting for DMS decline (Figure 9c and Figure S14b). It should be noted the decline in DO 501 will cause universal positive effect on DMS in most of low- to mid-latitude oceans, but its effect 502 generally cannot outcompete the negative effects of SST and phosphate (Figure 9b-c an Figure 503 504 S14). In addition, the dominant factor controlling the current spatial variation or seasonal cycle of DMS in certain oceanic regions may not induce the long-term DMS change. For example, 505 DSWF is one of the most important factors controlling the spatiotemporal pattern of DMS 506 (Figure 5), but it makes nearly no effect on DMS change from 2005 to 2100 (Figure 9b and 507 Figure S14b) because its annual values basically remain stable during the whole period (Figure 8 508 and Figure S11). 509

Due to the ubiquitous warming of surface water, the total transfer velocity (Kt) of DMS 510 generally increase in most of global ocean (Figure 7 and Figure S10). As a result, the decline of 511 global oceanic DMS emission (1.8% for SSP5-8.5) will be much smaller than the decrease 512 (7.0%) of its concentration, from 19.15 Tg S yr⁻¹ in 2005–2014 to 18.82 Tg S yr⁻¹ in 2091–2100 513 (Table S4). The change of DMS fluxes coincide spatially with its concentrations in mid- and 514 low-latitude oceans. But in the Arctic Ocean, due to the striking loss of summertime sea-ice 515 cover (Figure 10a), the Kt and sea-to-air flux of DMS exhibit extensive and significant rise 516 (Figure 7b-f). Specifically, the summertime DMS emission will increase by approximately 73% 517 from 42.4 Gg S yr⁻¹ (2015) to 73.3 Gg S yr⁻¹ (2100) under SSP5-8.5 scenario in the $>70^{\circ}$ N 518 Arctic (Figure 10c), which accords with the decadal increase in Arctic DMS emission between 519 1998 to 2016 reported in a recent study (Galí et al., 2019). This result highlights the importance 520 of sea-ice retreat to biogenic sulfur emission and subsequently aerosol radiative forcing, likely 521 leading to a negative feedback in Arctic climate system, which is warming faster than any other 522 regions (Levasseur, 2013). It should be noted that some previous studies have pointed out the 523 524 remarkable contribution of bottom-ice DMS production to sea surface DMS concentration and flux to the air in specific months (Hayashida et al., 2020), which is not considered in this study. 525 However, this process is still highly uncertain due to the scarcity of observations, and the ice-to-526 sea DMS flux is likely to make little impact on the upward trend of sea-to-air DMS emission 527 (Hayashida et al., 2020). As for the Antarctic with latitude larger than 65°, the summertime sea-528 ice loss is relatively weaker than that in the Arctic and the average DMS concentration presents a 529 slight decrease. Therefore, the increasing proportion of summertime DMS emission is much 530 lower, from 140 Gg S yr⁻¹ in 2015 to 169 GgS yr⁻¹ in 2074 (21%) and then decrease to 157 GgS 531 yr⁻¹ in 2100. 532



Figure 7. Projected changes in sea surface DMS concentration, transfer velocity (Kt), and sea-toair flux under SSP5-8.5 scenario. (a-c) Spatial distributions of the future changes (between
2091–2100 and 2005–2014) of (a) DMS concentrations, (b) transfer velocities, and (c) DMS
fluxes in the global ocean surface based on CMIP6 datasets. (d-f) Latitudinal distributions of the

mean (d) DMS concentrations, (e) transfer velocities, and (f) emission fluxes in the global ocean

- surface in 2005–2014 (solid black lines) and 2091–2100 (dash black lines) and the changes
- between these two periods (red lines with light blue and red shades representing negative and
- 541 positive changes, respectively).



543

Figure 8. Changing rate of each variable from 2015 to 2100 for SSP5-8.5. The gray area in the ocean represents no significant change (P > 0.05 for linear regression of yearly data).





Figure 9. Attribution of the future changes of sea surface DMS concentration under climate 547 warming. (a) Histograms of environmental factors in 2005–2014 and 2091–2100 (SSP5-8.5) as 548 well as partial dependence plots (solid lines) showing how the changes of environmental factors 549 affect DMS concentration in different regions. The illustrated factors include SST and phosphate 550 for Trades Pacific and Polar N, and SST and MLD for Westerlies S. The histograms were 551 plotted on the basis of 5,000 samples by area-weighted random sampling from initial gridded 552 dataset of each region. (b) Latitudinal distribution of the average effect of each factor on DMS 553 future change. The bold black line shows the simulated latitudinal distribution of DMS change 554 555 between 2091–2100 and 2005–2014. The left and right color bands illustrate dominant negative and positive factors at different latitudes, respectively. The dominant factor refers to the factor 556

with the largest absolute value of effect on DMS change. (c) Spatial distributions of the dominant 557 negative and positive factors related with the DMS change across global oceans. 558



559



Change in DMS flux (μ mol m⁻² d⁻¹ yr⁻¹) ·1

Figure 10. Changes in summertime sea-ice cover and DMS in polar regions during 2015–2100 561 for SSP5-8.5 scenario. (a) The spatial distributions of absolute decreasing rates of summertime 562 (May–September for the North Pole and December–April for the South Pole when sea-ice cover 563 is low and DMS emission is high in a year) sea-ice covering fraction. (b) The spatial 564 distributions of changing rates of summertime DMS flux. (c-d) The time series of averaged 565 summertime DMS concentration, area of sea-ice cover, and DMS emission for the (c) North pole 566 with latitude larger than 70° and (d) South pole with latitude larger than 65°. The thin lines 567 represent area of sea-ice cover obtained from each of CMIP6 models and the purple thick line 568 and shaded bands represent the average and standard deviation of these models. The proportions 569

of ice-free extent to total area in 2015 and 2100 are presented. 570

571

5 Conclusions 572

Sea surface DMS distribution and its change under global warming have been simulated 573 by characterizing main processes of DMS cycle and/or using empirical parameterization of 574 influencing factors like Chl a, MLD, radiation and nutrients (Bock et al., 2021; Cameron-Smith 575 et al., 2011; Gabric et al., 2004; Kloster et al., 2007; Six et al., 2013; Vallina et al., 2007b; Wang 576 et al., 2018). However, distinct ocean environments and complexity of DMS production and 577 cycle lead to striking biases in modeling DMS on a global scale. Data-driven approaches like 578 ANN are a good supplement to conventional process-based (theory-driven) and empirical 579 580 models.

Overall, the ANN model we developed can well reproduce the variability of sea surface 581 DMS across the global ocean, which provides a foundation for analyzing the relationships 582 between DMS and environmental variables at current situations and for projecting the DMS 583 trends in the future. The simulated global annual average DMS concentration is ~ 1.9 nM and the 584 emission is 19.2 Tg S yr⁻¹ during 2005 to 2014. High values generally occur in North Pacific, 585 subarctic Atlantic, the 40° S of Southern Ocean and Antarctic shelves at hemispheric summer. 586 By applying the variance-based GSA and PDP approaches, which factor is the most important to 587 current DMS variability and how these relationships display in nine oceanic regions are 588 systematically investigated. The results show that there are large spatial disparities in dominant 589 590 influencing factors and the same variable may have reverse effects in different regions. For 591 example, Chl a and SSS are the most important factors in Coastal and Polar N biomes both showing positive relationships with DMS concentrations. In the mid- to low-latitude open 592 oceans, in addition to mixed layer depth and solar radiation, SST and nutrients (mainly 593 phosphate and nitrate) are also important factors. There is probably an optimal SST between 10-594 20 °C, and the nutrients also exhibit reverse effects on DMS below and above certain turing 595 points. In cold environment Polar S, SST is the most important factor showing a negative effect. 596

597 Using CMIP6 model ensemble as input datasets, the future changes in DMS concentration and flux were projected. For a specific region, the dominant factors accounting for 598 599 DMS future changes may not coincide with the controlling factors for its current variations. The vast low-latitude Pacific present decreasing trend which is mainly related with phosphate decline 600 and SST rise. The decrease of SSS may induce significant DMS decline in the North Atlantic 601 subpolar gyre. In the North Pacific and Southern Ocean, the warming and increasing 602 stratification may lead to the increase of DMS, and the high-DMS zones exhibit an obvious 603 604 poleward shift. In general, the global mean concentration of sea surface DMS and global emission of DMS to the atmosphere will both decline slightly in the 21st century, although large 605 spatial heterogeneity exists. These results seem adverse to part of "CLAW hypothesis" which 606 assumed increased emission of oceanic DMS under global warming. But the climatic effect 607 caused by future changes of oceanic DMS relies on further exploration and understanding of 608 atmospheric DMS chemistry and aerosol-cloud-radiation interactions (Hoffmann et al., 2016; 609 Novak et al., 2021; Veres et al., 2020). Nonetheless, the dramatic increase of DMS emission 610 caused by sea-ice loss in the Arctic Ocean in future may lead to a CLAW-like negative feedback. 611 Considering the diverse trends of DMS fluxes in different oceanic regions, the future evolution 612 of marine DMS emission pattern may profoundly affect the regional cloud cover, albedo and 613 atmospheric circulation to some extent. 614

In this study, we have not incorporated any apriori information into the processes of 615 model construction, relationship exploration and dominant factor identification, but the results 616 seem reasonable and explainable, suggesting the good performance of data-driven techniques in 617 DMS prediction and information mining. However, disadvantages also exist. For example, what 618 we have obtained from GSA, PDP, and sensitivity experiments for future prediction are just 619 statistic results. In other words, what are "interpretable" directly extracted are just the output-620 input relationships for the ANN model itself, but not explicit causal mechanisms for DMS 621 cycling. The mechanistic interpretations need to incorporate existing knowledge on underlying 622 processes acquired by conventional techniques (e.g., culture experiments and process models). In 623 addition, several studies have pointed out that seawater pH makes a great impact on DMS cycle 624 as well as its response to future climate change (Arnold et al., 2013; Deng et al., 2021; Hopkins 625

et al., 2010; Six et al., 2013), but pH cannot be taken as a variable in the ANN model to project 626 future DMS changes since future pH values will substantially fall outside its present range used 627 in model construction. Actually, large uncertainties also exist in the previous study by applying 628 the relationships between DMS and pH obtained from a few experiments in small regions to 629 global projection (Six et al., 2013). In the future, the coupling of data-driven and theory-driven 630 631 models will be more powerful to predict the distribution and untangle controlling factors and processes, with the help of more field observations and culture experiments as well as better 632 mechanism understanding. 633

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649 **Open Research**

All data used for ANN model construction and the simulation of DMS during 2005–2014 are publicly available, and their sources are listed in Table 1. DMS data used for evaluating the

- validity of simulation are available from the *Line P Program* website
- 653 (<u>https://www.waterproperties.ca/linep/index.php</u>), the PANGAEA web page
- 654 (https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.805613), and the NASA's SeaBASS repository
- 655 (https://seabass.gsfc.nasa.gov/naames). CMIP6 model data are downloaded from the CMIP6
- 656 portal <u>https://esgf-node.llnl.gov/search/cmip6/</u>. The ANN model code and the Matlab scripts for
- 657 data analysis are available from
- 658 <u>https://github.com/SQZhou95/Sea_surface_DMS_simulation_using_neural_network</u>. All DMS
- 659 concentration and flux simulation data in this study have been deposited in <u>https://doi.org/</u>
- 660 <u>10.5281/zenodo.7057825</u> and can be downloaded publicly.

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